

## **LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

200 Maine, Suite B

Lawrence, Kansas 66044-1357

Office: 785/843-3060 Fax: 785/843-3161

Clinic: 785/843-0721 Fax: 785/843-2930

DATE: September 16, 2003

RELEASE: Immediate

CONTACT: Sharon Watson  
Office of Public Information  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
(785) 296-5795

### **Prevention and Control Measures for Child Care Facilities During Outbreak of Cryptosporidiosis**

The total number of laboratory-confirmed cases of cryptosporidiosis as of September 12 is 82. The age range of infected persons is one through 70 years. Of the 82 laboratory-confirmed cases, 52, or 63 percent, are children age 18 and younger. Thirty, or 37 percent, are adults.

The number of laboratory-confirmed cases associated with day care facilities continues to grow. Of the 25 additional laboratory-confirmed cases identified last week, 19, or 76 percent of last week's cases, are associated in some way with day care facilities.

Within households and day care facilities we know that Cryptosporidiosis is easily spread person-to-person. In a typical day care setting, diapering, shared toys, lots of hand-to-mouth contact and incomplete hand washing allows transmission of the germ between children. Hand washing is the most effective means of preventing Cryptosporidium transmission. Wash hands regularly, especially after using the bathroom and before preparing food. Ill persons should consult their healthcare provider if they are ill and need clinical advice for managing their illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are assisting the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department in conducting an epidemiological investigation and developing recommendations for prevention and control of the Cryptosporidium outbreak in Douglas County. Recommendations for day care facilities to prevent and control Cryptosporidium will be discussed during today's news briefing.